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LATIN AMERICA | STEPHEN KINZER

Linguists told to halt

The controversial Summer Linguistic Institute, a missionary organization that evangelizes native tribes in developing countries, has been ordered to halt its operations in Ecuador within 12 months.

The institute has been active among aboriginal tribes in eastern Ecuador since 1956 and has translated the Bible into their language as an aid in their missionary work. But the government now charges that some of the institute's activities are incompatible with the development of native people.

A young employee of the institute, Chester Bitterman, was kidnaped and killed by guerrillas in neighboring Colombia last year. The guerrillas charged that the institute is a front for the Central Intelligence Agency.